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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/751,355	12/28/2000	Donald J. Cook	BUR920000172US	8838
21918	7590	12/29/2003	EXAMINER	
DOWNS RACHLIN MARTIN PLLC			KOBERT, RUSSELL MARC	
199 MAIN STREET				
P O BOX 190			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
BURLINGTON, VT 05402-0190			2829	

DATE MAILED: 12/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/751,355	COOK ET AL.
	Examiner Russell M Kobert	Art Unit 2829

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 October 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____.
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____. 6) Other: _____

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-17 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 15-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by LeCroy, Jr. (4423373).

LeCroy, Jr. anticipates a system (Figures 1 and 2) for testing a DUT (40) having a plurality of probe pads (10), comprising:

A forcing probe (15) for contacting and applying an electrical signal to a first portion of a first one of the plurality of probe pads;

A sensing probe (25) for contacting a second portion of the first one of the plurality of probe pads spaced from the first portion and sensing the electrical signal after the electrical signal has passed from the first portion to the second portion via the first one of the plurality of probe pads; and

A feedback system operatively configured for adjusting the magnitude of the electrical signal applied by the forcing probe as a function of the electrical signal sensed at the sensing probe so as to achieve a desired value of the electrical signal at the second portion (col 2, ln 58 – col 4, ln 56); as recited in claim 1.

As to claim 3, LeCroy, Jr. shows the feedback system including a voltmeter (32).

As to claim 5, LeCroy, Jr. shows first (24) and second (26) sensing electrodes and a sensing instrument, the first sensing electrode in electrical communication with the feedback system and the second sensing electrode in electrical communication with the sensing instrument.

As to claim 6, LeCroy, Jr. shows the sensing instrument is a current meter (combination of resistor 30 and voltmeter 32).

Moreover, the methods described in claims 9, 10 and 15-17 are considered the inherent method of using the apparatus of LeCroy, Jr.

4. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being clearly anticipated by Pailthorp (6100815).

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Shibata (5151651) shows an apparatus for testing IC elements comprising force side probes and sense side probes connected to a four-terminal tester (col 7, ln 1-7).

6. A shortened statutory period for response to this action is set to expire three month(s) from the date of this letter. Failure to respond within the period for response will cause the application to become abandoned. 35 U.S.C. 133

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Russell Kobert whose telephone number is (703) 308-5222. *Starting January 12, 2004, the new telephone number will be (571) 272-1963.*

The Examiner's Supervisor, Kammie Cuneo, can be reached at (703) 308-1233. *Starting January 12, 2004, the new telephone number will be (571) 272-1957.*

For an automated menu of Tech Center 2800 phone numbers call (571) 272-2800.



Russell M. Kobert
Patent Examiner
Group Art Unit 2829
December 9, 2003



EVAN PERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER